

**BOROUGH OF DUMONT
BERGEN COUNTY, NJ
EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES
MAY 11, 2010
6:30 PM**

Mayor McHale called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

Flag Salute, Silent Prayer

Sunshine Law: The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act of the State of New Jersey have been satisfied by the inclusion of the change in date and the time and place of this public meeting in a notice sent to *The Record* and *The Press Journal*, filed with the Borough of Dumont, and posted on the Dumont website and the official bulletin board.

Roll Call: Council members Carrick, Freeman, Manna, Stylianou,
Zamechansky-present
Councilman Caspare-absent (excused)
Mayor McHale-present

Mayor McHale acknowledged the many residents attending the meeting and their concerns about the defeated school budget. He explained that the Governing Body is required to take action by May 19th and that the resolution pertaining to the school tax levy would be on the May 18th agenda.

The members of the Governing Body each stated they all think highly of the school system in Dumont. The challenge of the committee, comprised of Council members Freeman, Zamechansky and Carrick, is to cut items which would not affect the children.

Councilman Manna recused himself from discussion and voting since one of his family members is a member of the school system in Dumont.

Councilman Freeman, head of the school budget committee, highlighted some of the important points they considered. The final tally of the school budget vote was 1,629 “no” votes and 1,226 “yes” votes; 57% “no” versus 43% “yes”. He explained that the Council does not control what ultimately gets cut. They make suggestions but the Board of Education makes the final decision on all cuts. The final determination must provide a thorough and efficient education and maintain the stability of the district under the terms of the law. The present economic situation is not good, which is another consideration. The total amount to be cut is approximately \$1.5 million, which would translate into a savings of \$294 per household from the original amount presented in the school budget. The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for May 13th. The teachers’ contract negotiations are still ongoing.

Motion to open to the public: Councilman Carrick

Second: Councilman Freeman

All in favor.

1. Teri Riva-56 Merritt Avenue-asked about paying for sports and the fact that it is not a line item in the budget.
2. Terri Kolodziej-167 Sunset Avenue-asked if anyone had asked the teachers to give up their stipend for extra-curricular activities and if the Council would recommend bringing back programs that were cut.
3. Gene Fecter-76 Cedar Road-expressed his concern that since Dumont has very few rateables, the schools are important for the value of the homes.
4. Liz Marchese-236 Larch Avenue-asked about teachers' cuts, administration cuts and whether certain positions are mandated.
5. Nancy Ziemba-21 Patton Place-asked how many administrators were suggested to be cut. She cited statistics of defeated budgets from last year and the cuts made.
6. Lynne Vietri-140 Wilkens Drive-heard that requiring payment by students for extra-curricular activities might be illegal. What then would replace that amount in the expected suggested items to be cut?
7. Teri Riva-56 Merritt Avenue-teachers in other districts took "0" increase.
8. Liz Marchese-236 Larch Avenue-asked if kindergarten or redistricting were addressed?
9. Robert Bodhayny-183 Berkley Place-asked where the checks and balances for the Board of Education are-for example, the salary of the Superintendent.
10. Nancy Ziemba-21 Patton Place-stated that the information Mr. Bodhayny cited from The Record may be misleading because there had been an interim superintendent working at the time.
11. Karen DeMarco-64 Ontario Street-asked if there was a definite number of teachers retiring. She said that her children asked if the Mayor and Council have the authority to overturn the decision of the voters.

The Mayor encouraged residents to attend the Board of Education meeting Thursday and to let the Governor know how they feel.

Motion to close to the public: Councilman Carrick

Second: Councilman Stylianou

All in favor.

Motion to Recess to Executive Chambers: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman Carrick

All in favor.

Motion to return to public session: Councilman Carrick

Second: Councilwoman Zamechansky

All in favor.

Administrator's Report

A meeting with FEMA was facilitated at Borough Hall. There will be another meeting on the 17th at which time they will notify us the amount of money that will be reimbursed relating to the storm in March.

The Intersection should be open to traffic by May 21st.

Mr. Perkins said there will be two pocket parks on the Virginia Avenue side and one on the northwest side provided by the County.

The Bergen County Administrative office of the Court has notified us that our municipal court will be supplied with a new computer and monitor at no charge.

The Lightning Detection System will be installed by May 31st.

- Councilman Carrick
Shade Tree Commission
Arbor Day was a great success.

- Councilman Stylianou
Ordinance Committee

The “Pay to Play” seminar which was attended by Council members Carrick, Manna and Stylianou May 4th was very informative. Freedom of speech issues were discussed at the seminar.

There will be an ordinance committee meeting tomorrow night.

- Councilman Freeman

Library

Due to a conflict, the Councilman could not attend the last Board meeting.

Joint Land Use Board

Most of the items on the agenda were tabled.

- Councilman Manna

Finance

The Finance Committee has met and they are coming close to closing the \$500,000 gap that exists and hopefully coming within 4% required tax cap levy. The auditor is looking at the Borough’s credit rating. The auditor recommended that we apply to Standard & Poor’s, which takes about thirty days to complete. A better credit rating would save the Borough money.

- Councilwoman Zamechansky

Recreation

The huts are basically finished.

There were a couple of issues at the park, which were fixed.

The Mayor read the resolution to go into closed session for discussion of contract negotiations and potential litigation

Motion: Councilman Carrick

Second: Councilman Freeman

Roll call vote: Council members Carrick, Freeman, Manna, Stylianou, Zamechansky-yes

Motion to go back into public: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman Carrick

All in favor.

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Stylianou

Second: Councilman Carrick

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by:

Susan Connelly, RMC

Borough Clerk